

**Maine Revised Statutes**  
**Title 32: PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS**  
**Chapter 143: DENTAL PROFESSIONS**

**§18373. EXPANDED FUNCTION DENTAL ASSISTANT**

**1. Scope of practice; direct supervision.** An expanded function dental assistant may perform the following reversible intraoral procedures authorized under the direct supervision of a dentist:

A. Apply cavity liners and bases as long as the dentist:

- (1) Has ordered the cavity liner or base;
- (2) Has checked the cavity liner or base prior to the placement of the restoration; and
- (3) Has checked the final restoration prior to patient dismissal; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]

B. Apply pit and fissure sealants after an evaluation of the teeth by the dentist at the time of sealant placement; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]

C. Apply supragingival desensitizing agents to an exposed root surface or dentinal surface of teeth; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]

D. Apply topical fluorides recognized for the prevention of dental caries; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]

E. Cement provisional or temporary crowns and bridges and remove excess cement; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]

F. Perform tooth vitality tests; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]

G. Place and contour amalgam, composite and other restorative materials prior to the final setting or curing of the material; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]

H. Place and remove periodontal dressing; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]

I. Place and remove retraction cord; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]

J. Record readings with a digital caries detector and report them to the dentist for interpretation and evaluation; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]

K. Size, place and cement or bond orthodontic bands and brackets with final inspection by the dentist; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]

L. Supragingival polishing. A dentist or a dental hygienist must first determine that the teeth to be polished are free of calculus or other extraneous material prior to polishing. Dentists may permit an expanded function dental assistant to use only a slow-speed rotary instrument and rubber cup. Dentists may allow an expanded function dental assistant to use high-speed, power-driven handpieces or instruments to contour or finish newly placed composite materials; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]

M. Take and pour impressions for bleaching trays, athletic mouth guards, provisional or temporary crowns, bridges, custom trays and fluoride trays; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]

N. Apply cavity varnish; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]

O. Apply liquids, pastes and gel topical anesthetics; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]

P. Assist a dentist who provides orthodontic services in preparation of teeth for attaching, bonding and cementing fixed appliances in a manner appropriate and according to the manufacturer's directions; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]

Q. Fabricate temporary crowns and bridges, limiting handpiece rotary instrumentation used in the fabrication to extraoral use only, as long as the dentist checks the occlusion and fit prior to releasing the patient; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]

R. Irrigate and dry root canals; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]

S. Isolate the operative field; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]

T. Perform cold vitality testing with confirmation by the dentist; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]

U. Perform electronic vitality scanning with confirmation by the dentist; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]

V. Place and remove matrix bands, rubber dams and wedges; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]

W. Place elastics and instruct in their use; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]

X. Place, hold or remove celluloid and other plastic strips prior to or subsequent to the placement of a filling by the dentist; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]

Y. Place or remove temporary separating devices; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]

Z. Place wires, pins and elastic ligatures to tie in orthodontic arch wires that have been fitted and approved by the dentist at the time of insertion; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]

AA. Prepare tooth sites and surfaces with a rubber cup and pumice for banding or bonding of orthodontic brackets. This procedure may not be intended or interpreted as an oral prophylaxis, which is a procedure specifically reserved to be performed by dental hygienists or dentists. This procedure also may not be intended or interpreted as a preparation for restorative material. A dentist or dental hygienist shall check and approve the procedure; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]

BB. Reapply, on an emergency basis only, orthodontic brackets; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]

CC. Remove composite material using slow-speed instrumentation for debonding brackets, as long as the dentist conducts a final check prior to release of the patient; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]

DD. Remove orthodontic arch wires and tension devices and any loose bands or bonds, but only as directed by the dentist; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]

EE. Select and try in stainless steel or other preformed crowns for insertion by the dentist; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]

FF. Take impressions for opposing models and retainers; and [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]

GG. Take intraoral measurements and make preliminary selection of arch wires and intraoral and extraoral appliances, including head gear. [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]

[2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]

**2. Scope of practice; general supervision.** An expanded function dental assistant may perform the following procedures under the general supervision of a dentist:

A. Place temporary fillings on an emergency basis as long as the patient is informed of the temporary nature of the fillings; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]

B. Remove excess cement from the supragingival surfaces of teeth; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]

C. Change or replace dry socket packets after diagnosis and treatment planned by a dentist; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]

D. For instruction purposes, demonstrate to a patient how the patient should place and remove removable prostheses, appliances or retainers; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]

E. For the purpose of eliminating pain or discomfort, remove loose, broken or irritating orthodontic appliances; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]

- F. Give oral health instructions; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]
  - G. Irrigate and aspirate the oral cavity; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]
  - H. Perform dietary analyses for dental disease control; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]
  - I. Place and recement with temporary cement an existing crown that has fallen out as long the dental assistant promptly notifies the dentist this procedure was performed so that appropriate follow-up can occur; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]
  - J. Place and remove periodontal dressing; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]
  - K. Pour and trim dental models; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]
  - L. Remove sutures and schedule a follow-up appointment with the dentist within 7 to 10 days of suture removal; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]
  - M. Retract lips, cheek, tongue and other tissue parts; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]
  - N. Take and pour impressions for study casts; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]
  - O. Take and record the vital signs of blood pressure, pulse and temperature; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]
  - P. Take dental plaque smears for microscopic inspection and patient education; and [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]
  - Q. Take intraoral photographs. [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]
- [ 2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW) .]

**3. Procedures not authorized.** An expanded function dental assistant may not engage in the following activities:

- A. Complete or limited examination, diagnosis or treatment planning; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]
  - B. Surgical or cutting procedures of hard or soft tissue; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]
  - C. Prescribing drugs, medicaments or work authorizations; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]
  - D. Pulp capping, pulpotomy or other endodontic procedures; [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]
  - E. Placement and intraoral adjustments of fixed or removable prosthetic appliances; or [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]
  - F. Administration of local anesthesia, parenteral or inhalation sedation or general anesthesia. [2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).]
- [ 2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW) .]

#### SECTION HISTORY

2015, c. 429, §21 (NEW).

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